

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of detecting application spoofing in a mixed use avionics display by indicating when the mixed use avionics display is displaying information from a non-certified source, the method comprising the steps of:

providing an avionics display having a display area that is capable of displaying information from a non-certified source;

providing a data connection between the avionics display and the non-certified source;

providing information from the non-certified source to the avionics display; and

displaying the information on the display area so that less than the entire display area displays the information.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

partitioning the display area so that at least a portion of the display area cannot display the information from the non-certified source.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the step of partitioning the display area further comprises the step of:

providing the non-certified source with a false indication of the size of the display area so that the non-certified source is not capable of addressing the entire display area.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein the step of providing the non-certified source with a false indication of size further comprises the step of:

providing the non-certified source with a false display address so that the non-certified source is not capable of addressing the entire display area.

5. The method of claim 3, wherein the step of providing the non-certified source with a false indication of size further comprises the step of:

providing a false horizontal display size so that the non-certified source is not capable of addressing the entire display area.

6. The method of claim 3, wherein the step of providing the non-certified source with a false indication of size further comprises the step of:

providing a false vertical display size so that the non-certified source is not capable of addressing the entire display area.

7. The method of claim 2, wherein the avionics display is comprised of a visual display monitor and a computer processor and the step of partitioning the display area further comprises the step of:

the computer processor limiting the display area in which the information can be displayed.

8. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

displaying a certified display on the display area; and

maintaining the displaying of the certified display on the display area while simultaneously displaying the information from the non-certified source; and

the step of displaying the information on the display area further comprises displaying the information on the display area in front of the certified display so that the information is visible on the avionics display and at least a portion of the certified display is visible on the avionics display.

9. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

displaying a visual indicator on the display area whenever the information is being displayed; and

preventing the displaying of the information from blocking the visual indicator so that the visual indicator is always visible on the display area when the information is being displayed.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the step of preventing the displaying of the information from blocking the visual indicator further comprises the step of:

displaying the visual indicator on a portion of the display area that is not used to display the information so that the visual indicator is always visible when displaying the information.

11. The method of claim 9, wherein the step of preventing the displaying of the information from blocking the visual indicator further comprises the step of:

superimposing the visual indicator in front of the information being displayed so that the visual indicator is always visible when displaying the information.

12. A method of preventing application spoofing in a mixed use avionics display, the method comprising the steps of:

providing an avionics display that is capable of displaying information from a non-certified source;

establishing rules that dictate when the avionics display can display the information; and

preventing the displaying of the information when the rules dictate that the avionics display should not display the information so that application spoofing can not occur.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the step of establishing the rules further comprises the steps of:

reviewing applicable government regulations that govern the operation of an aircraft; and

determining when the regulations require the avionics display to display a certified display.

14. The method of claim 12, wherein the step of establishing the rules further comprises:

identifying periods of operation of an aircraft when an operator of the aircraft should not be allowed to access the information.

15. The method of claim 12, wherein the avionics display comprises a computer processor and the processor performs the step of preventing the displaying of the information from the non-certified source.

16. The method of claim 12, wherein the step of preventing the displaying of the information further comprises the step of:

terminating a data connection between the avionics display and the non-certified source of information so that the avionics display does not receive information from the non-certified source.

17. A method of allowing an aircraft certified flight deck display to be used as a mixed use avionics display by indicating when the certified flight deck display is displaying information from a non-certified source, the method comprising the steps of:

providing an aircraft having a certified flight deck display;

providing a data connection between the certified flight deck display and a non-certified source of information;

providing information from the non-certified source to the certified flight deck display;

limiting space on the certified flight deck display in which the information can be displayed so that an entire display area is not used to display the information; and

displaying the information in the limited space on the certified flight deck display.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein the step of limiting the space on the certified flight deck display in which the information can be displayed further comprises the step of:

partitioning the display area so that at least a portion of the display area can not display the information from the non-certified source.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein the step of partitioning the display area further comprises the step of:

providing the non-certified source with a false indication of the size of the display area so that the non-certified source is not capable of addressing the entire display area.

20. The method of claim 17, further comprising the steps of:

displaying a certified display on the display area;

displaying the information from the non-certified source on the display area in front of the certified display; and

maintaining the displaying of the certified display on the display area while simultaneously displaying the information from the non-certified source so that the information is visible on the certified flight deck display and at least a portion of the certified display is visible on the certified flight deck display.

21. The method of claim 17, further comprising the steps of:

placing a visual indicator on the display area whenever the information is being displayed; and

preventing the displaying of the information from blocking the visual indicator so that the visual indicator is always visible on the display area when the information is being displayed.